

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

11 JULY 1983

PLO Affairs

The PLO special committee made "noticeable progress" toward improving Palestinian-Syrian relations during further talks in Damascus with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, according to a statement by PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum, the chairman of the committee, reported by Aden Voice of Palestine radio on 10 July. Al-Fahum's committee also briefed Fatah opposition leaders in Damascus on the results of its recent contacts with the Fatah leadership in Tunis, Radio Monte Carlo noted. The dissidents rejected PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's suggestion that a neutral personality in the Fatah dispute be appointed commander of the PLO forces in the Al-Biqa' region, according to a PLO source cited by the radio. 'Arafat's suggestion followed his rejection of a number of proposals adopted by Al-Fahum's committee, including the recommendation of dissident leader Colonel Sa'id Musa as commander of PLO forces in Al-Biqa', AFP reported citing Palestinian sources. On the other hand, Wafa director Ziyad 'Abd al-Fattah subsequently denied that 'Arafat had turned down the committee's proposals and said such reports are obstructing the committee's work.

Earlier, dissident leader Col Musa predicted that Al-Fahum's committee will fail in its mission because 'Arafat has rejected all its proposals, JANA reported. The dissidents reject mediation and are unwilling to compromise on their demands, he added. The dissidents have rejected 'Arafat's proposals for a withdrawal of Fatah loyalists from Al-Biqa' to Tripoli and for the formation of an observation committee to monitor the cease-fire between the two sides, Amman radio reported.

In another development, 'Arafat will visit Moscow soon and will be preceded by a PLO delegation led by International Department chief Faruq Qaddumi, according to PLO sources cited by Tunis radio and SPA. One member of the delegation, PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, asserted in a press statement reported by KUNA that the Soviet Union regards the actions taken by the Fatah dissidents as "serving U.S. interests." He also confirmed that the PLO leadership is considering establishing a Palestinian government-in-exile, subject to the approval of the PNC.

Meanwhile, the Saudi education minister conveyed a message from King Fahd to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad dealing with the Palestinian and regional situation, SANA reported on 10 July. The Syrian leader gave the Saudi envoy a reply message.

Lebanon

IDF Redeployment — The IDF will shortly, "perhaps even within a few days," begin redeploying along the Al-'Awwali River, Jerusalem radio reported on 10 July. Earlier, the IDF evacuated the Monte Verde-'Ayn Sa'adah area east of Beirut in a move described by an Israeli source as of "limited importance."

Jerusalem television noted. The Lebanese Army replaced the IDF in the area, according to a Lebanese military source cited by Beirut radio.

The IDF's redeployment in Lebanon will be the first stage in the "complete withdrawal" of Israeli forces from Lebanon, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir subsequently told European parliamentarians in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio.

Reported Israeli Attack — An Israeli warplane reportedly attacked a Syrian radar position in Lebanon with an air-to-ground missile on 10 July, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon announced early on 11 July. Other monitored sources have not confirmed the incident.

Culprits of Embassy Bombing — Security authorities have detained more than 10 people who confessed to participating in the bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Radio Free Lebanon reported on 10 July citing the Lebanese press. Those arrested belong to an organization "well-known for using violence" and "for links with foreign circles," the radio said.

Al-Wazzan Interview — Lebanon would "undoubtedly" repudiate the Israeli-Lebanese agreement if it could find a more favorable alternative, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan declared in an interview with Budapest television. He also appealed to all countries capable of helping Lebanon to supply it with military and nonmilitary aid.

Israel

Three policemen and six demonstrators were wounded during an 8 July Muslim demonstration on Temple Mount, Jerusalem radio reported. Meanwhile, in the wake of the murder of a Jewish settler in Hebron and the dismissal of the city's Arab mayor, Defense Minister Moshe Arens accused the mayor and members of his council of having a hand in creating the atmosphere that contributed toward the recent violence in Hebron. Speaking in an interview with Jerusalem television, Arens dismissed proposals for the establishment of a Jewish settlers militia, asserting that there is "no room" for militia groups in Israel or in territory under Israeli rule. Asked for his view on Jewish settlement in Hebron, Arens said the old Jewish quarter in the city must be rehabilitated and the number of Jewish inhabitants increased.

Reporting on the continuing tension in Hebron, *The Jerusalem Post* noted that in the wake of the Jewish settler's murder, Jewish settlers destroyed 90 percent of the Arab market stalls and several stores in the city.

Iran

Measures Against France — Iran has decided to close down the French Consulate in Esfahan and the French cultural institute

in response to the French Government's "hostile actions," especially France's cooperation with the "terrorist hypocrites and hijackers," according to a 9 July Foreign Ministry announcement broadcast by Tehran Radio. France's "animosity" toward Iran through its support for Iraq and the Iranian "counterrevolution front" reached a peak of hostility and deceit when the French provided facilities for the recent hijackers of an Iranian passenger plane, the statement asserted. Earlier, in a Friday sermon broadcast by the radio, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani accused France, Kuwait, the United States, and the Mojahedin-e Khalq of engineering the hijacking. Criticizing the French authorities for bringing Mojahedin leader Mas'ud Rajavi to negotiate with the hijackers while refusing to allow the Iranian charge d'affaires to participate in the talks, Rafsanjani warned that Iran would take revenge against France, "but not with terrorism."

Meanwhile, Iranians continued to hijack aircraft in order to leave their country. Hijacked Iranian helicopters landed in Bahrain and Oman over the weekend, according to WAKH.

Prime Minister on Economic Situation — Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, in an interview broadcast by Tehran radio on 10 July reviewing the country's economic situation and the revolution's accomplishments in this area, attacked hoarding and profiteering. The prime minister called hoarders and profiteers "economic terrorists" and members of "dark gangs" who try to portray themselves as spokesmen for the bazaar in criticizing the government by saying that it and the revolution have done nothing for the people. The clandestine Radio Iran viewed Mir-Hoseyn Musavi's remarks as an unprecedented attack on the hojatiyeh faction that opens a new chapter in the power struggle within the regime and predicted violent clashes in the future.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraqi Naval units and aircraft destroyed three Iranian naval vessels trying to enter the port of Bandar-e Khomeyni, according to an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio on 10 July. An Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio the same day said one Iraqi helicopter was shot down west of the Al-Umayyah and Al-Bakr jetties. Earlier, Iranian fire on an Iraqi troop concentration preparing to launch an offensive along the Marivan front killed or wounded some 50 Iraqi soldiers, according to another military communique broadcast by Tehran Radio. In another development, the commander of the Iranian Ground Forces said Iraq has attempted some 11 offensives in the Sharhani area of the Moharram theater recently but all were repelled by Iranian forces which captured great amounts of war spoils, IRNA reported over the weekend.

North African Affairs

Postponement of Moroccan Elections — Morocco has postponed the date of its national elections in order to concentrate on retrieving the "usurped" Sahara through the referendum called by the OAU. King Hassan II announced in a speech carried by MAP on 9 July. While admitting that general elections are constitutionally required, King Hassan said the Constitution is subordinate to Morocco's territorial integrity. Regarding the Saharan referendum, he said that even if the result is "negative,

which is inconceivable," nothing can compel Morocco to relinquish the Sahara and its people "on a golden platter" to a group of "mercenaries." Since the "recalcitrants" will be losers whatever the referendum's result, their only option is to return to Morocco, which is prepared to forgive them and forget their misdeeds, the monarch said.

Libyan Involvement in Chad — A Chadian official announced on 9 July that 3,000 Libyan soldiers are participating in current fighting in northern and eastern Chad, SUNA reported. The chief of staff of former Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei's forces admitted that Libya has supplied weapons to his troops but added that the Libyan weaponry is being used by Chadians, according to AFP citing a monitored rebel radio broadcast. Commentaries by Tripoli radio and JANA asserted that President Hissain Habre's refusal to allow an OAU committee into Chad to investigate claims of Libyan intervention there confirms that Libya is not interfering and that Habre's allegations in this regard are lies. JANA also warned that underlying France and Egypt's declared intention of increasing aid to Habre's government is a secret agreement to send Egyptian troops to assist Habre's forces. However, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali subsequently stressed that Egypt has "no intention" of sending forces to Chad, MENA reported. Meanwhile, a Chadian envoy delivered a message to King Hassan from Habre requesting Moroccan military assistance to help confront Goukouni's forces, KUNA disclosed citing an official source in Rabat. In Paris a rebel spokesman announced that Goukouni's forces have captured Abeche, 700 km from Ndjamena, JANA reported on 9 July.

Release of Hostages in Sudan — The Sudanese Army rescued five Western hostages recently kidnapped by the self-styled "liberation front of southern Sudan," according to a Sudanese military communique carried by SUNA on 9 July. The five foreigners — who included two Americans — were safely freed after the Army attacked and occupied rebel positions on Boma mountain, killing 18 and forcing the others to flee toward Ethiopia. The Sudanese communique accused the "outlaws" of having contacts with Libya and an unspecified communist country.

Afghanistan

Deputy Foreign Minister's Interview — The recent "provocative" visit to Pakistan by Secretary of State Shultz indicates that the "imperialist powers" seek to block the present indirect negotiations between the DRA and Pakistan, Deputy Foreign Minister Sarwar Yuresh said in a television interview reported by BAKHTAR on 11 July. Yuresh said "some" progress was achieved at the talks and understanding was reached on most aspects of issues under discussion. Should the existing process of contacts proceed unobstructed, Yuresh said, "there will be a possibility" for direct talks in the near future. The withdrawal of Soviet troops is Afghanistan's internal affair, according to Yuresh, and can be possible only if there is a complete cessation of hostile acts against the DRA and guarantees against their recurrence.

Insurgent Activity — Afghan insurgents shot down a Soviet MIG, capturing its pilot and an adviser, during a Soviet-DRA raid on an insurgent stronghold near Kabul on 5 July, AFP

reported citing Afghan resistance sources in Islamabad. Earlier, Karachi radio reported that "severe" clashes have taken place between insurgents and Soviet-DRA forces north of Kabul in late June which left 54 civilians and 23 Soviet-DRA soldiers dead.

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Official Returns From USSR; Agreements Cited*LD091756 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1245 GMT 9 Jul 83*

[Text] Kabul, 9 Jul — Khalil Ahmad Abawi, vice chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers and head of the State Planning Committee, who headed a delegation to the USSR to attend the third session of the permanent commission for economic cooperation between the DRA and the Soviet Union, returned to Kabul this morning.

In this visit, in addition to signing a protocol on the third session of the permanent commission on economic cooperation between the DRA and the Soviet Union in which appreciation was expressed for the economic assistance of the USSR to the DRA and for intergovernmental cooperation in various economic sectors, Abawi also concluded other protocols on a 175-million-ruble grant-in-aid from the USSR to Afghanistan for consumer goods, on the postponement of the debt repayment to the USSR for another 10 years and the extension of the service period of about 100 advisers from this fraternal country who are discharging duties in DRA Government organs.

The Afghan delegation during this visit met the deputy chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers and other government officials.

Deputy Minister Discusses Foreign Policy*LD101916 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 10 Jul 83*

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Sarwar Yuresh by unidentified BAKHTAR reporter — date, place not given — recorded]

[Text][Question indistinct]

[Answer] In reply to your first question, with the victory of the national-democratic April Revolution, just as changes were brought about in other spheres of the DRA, so was a great change brought about in the foreign policy of Afghanistan. As with the internal policy of the DRA, which is based on the principles of justice and equality, [word indistinct] social and material and moral welfare of workers, the foreign policy of our state is also based on the principles of justice, peace, and international security and on the principles of national sovereignty and national independence, territorial integrity and noninterference in the internal affairs of states.

The DRA Government desires good relations with all countries of the world, particularly with neighboring countries. Respect for the UN Charter, defending the peace movement and national liberation movements, struggling against imperialism, colonialism, neocolonialism, racial prejudice, apartheid, and Zionism are all major principles of the DRA's foreign policy.

In consideration of the fact that Afghanistan has been one of the founders and active participants in the Nonaligned Movement, the DRA attaches great importance to its policy of positive and active nonalignment. Under the present situation and condition when our country is subject to imperialist armed aggression through Pakistan and Iran, the creation of a good neighborliness

and friendship and the creation of peace in our relations with neighboring countries constitute one of the fundamental aspects of the DRA's foreign policy. It should be said that these fundamental principles of the DRA's foreign policy have been completely stated in the documents, reports, and statements of Comrade Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council. It is due to these principles that the DRA Government, in particular after the new development stage of the April Revolution, put forward peaceful proposals for the purpose of solving the questions around Afghanistan stemming from the repeated interference of imperialism and for the purpose of consolidating and creating friendly relations and good neighborliness with Pakistan and Iran.

[Question] (?How would you assess) the third round of talks between the delegation of the DRA and (?Pakistan) through the UN envoy?

[Answer] As you know, the third round of negotiations between the DRA delegation and Pakistan through Diego Cordovez, the envoy of the UN secretary general, ended on 24 June 1983 in Geneva. In connection with this topic, I would like, first of all, to emphasize that the propaganda machinery and slander spread by the imperialist countries want to focus the negotiations on and propagate the subject of the withdrawal of the limited Soviet contingents. The question of the return of the limited Soviet contingents to their peace-loving country is the internal affair of the DRA and the DRA only. Thus it is clear to all people of the world and in particular to the parties in the talks that the limited Soviet contingents have come to Afghanistan as a result of imperialist aggression against the territorial integrity and the independence of Afghanistan; the withdrawal of the Soviet military contingents and return to their country [brief break in transmission] when these interferences are completely stopped and credible international guarantees concerning the non-repetition of such imperialist interference are given.

What is clear is the fact that during this round of talks the parties in the talks concentrated mainly on discussing three fundamental issues. They were: the cessation of interference against the DRA; credible international guarantees concerning the complete cessation and nonrepetition of such interferences; and the return of refugees.

In accordance with the peace-seeking policy of the DRA, the representative delegation of the DRA has tried to display good will, necessary flexibility, and necessary concessions during the negotiations. Therefore, in the conclusion of the talks as a result of the understanding between the two sides, it was decided that the UN secretary general's envoy will pay a visit in the near future to Kabul, Islamabad, and Tehran so that more authority will be provided to him for the resumption of another round of talks as a result of the contacts which the UN envoy would make with the countries concerned and the relevant authorities of the countries concerned.

[Question] (?What is the attitude of the imperialist countries, in particular of the United States, concerning the solution of questions around Afghanistan)?

[Answer] As is clear to all, from the very beginning of negotiations between the representatives of the DRA and Pakistan, the imperialist powers, led by the United States, endeavored to block the path of the present negotiations between the two countries under various pretexts. The poisonous and misleading propaganda of the lies-spreading machinery of Western powers, further arming of the Afghan counterrevolutionaries, the intensification of armed interference by imperialism against the DRA and, in particular, the recent visit of George Shultz, the U.S. secretary of state, to Pakistan, are indicative of this fact.

According to reports by the slanderous Western media, when the foreign minister of Pakistan presented the report of negotiations and the progress of talks in Geneva to George Shultz, George Shultz not only did not support or welcome this progress, but by using masterly words, tried to make the Pakistan authorities believe that the present negotiations would not render any results.

Also, the visit of George Shultz to the camps of the Afghan counterrevolutionaries in Peshawar and his visit to the military posts of Pakistan located in the Khyber valley once again indicate that U.S. imperialism is determined to continue imperialist aggression and the undeclared war against the DRA, to fan the fire of tension in the region and keep (?confusion) alive in the area, so that in this way, by trampling the vital interests of the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan, it can succeed in its sinister and aggressive imperialist designs. However, despite the continuation of subversive activities, poisonous propaganda, and slander of imperialism against the DRA and against the current talks in Geneva. The DRA Government is determined to continue its peace-seeking activities and its peaceful [word indistinct] measures. We are completely confident that in just as all subversive and interventionist activities of imperialism and aggression of the United States in other parts of the world in the past have been completely defeated, the aggression against the DRA and the undeclared imperialist war against the DRA will also be doomed to (?shameful) defeat.

BAKHTAR Report

LD110623 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0428 GMT 11 Jul 83

[Text] Kabul, July 10, BAKHTAR — The Imperialist powers led by the USA have beginning [as received] to thwart the process of talks between the DRA and Pakistan, deputy foreign minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, Sarwar Yuresh said here today. The recent provocative visit of the U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is a living testimony to this act, he added.

In a television interview, Sarwar Yuresh quoting the report carried by Western media pointed out that when Shultz was informed by Pakistani foreign minister on the progress of Geneva talks, he showed no satisfaction and did not favour the progress made. He rather tried to convince the Pakistani authorities in a dictatorial tone that the continuing talks will not bear any fruits.

Yuresh said that the visit of Shultz to the camps of Afghan counter-revolutionaries in Peshawar, his assurances of increased aid to them and his visit to a Pakistani military post once again proved that the U.S. imperialism is determined to continue the undeclared war against the people of Afghanistan. It wants to

keep alive the flames of confrontation and tension in the region and give new more extensive dimension to its shameless aggression and intervention against the DRA.

Yuresh said that in the course of talks progress was achieved to some extent, in respect of most of the aspects of the issues under discussion the sides reached an understanding. It may be said that during these negotiations a step forward was taken and should the existing process of contacts proceed unobstructed. There will be a possibility that direct talks take place in the near future between the DRA and Pakistan for quickly reaching at the solution of the existing problems.

The Afghan deputy minister said that the imperialist states want to depict the withdrawal of the limited contingents of the Soviet Union as a main issue of the talks while it is an internal affair of Afghanistan. That is why, he added, the formula for this is clear to all especially to the sides taking part in the task. Since the limited Soviet contingents were invited as a result of armed aggression against the DRA, their withdrawal can only be possible as a result of complete cessation and guarantees for the non-recurrence of such interventions.

Karachi Reports on Mujahidin Activities

'Severe Clashes' North of Kabul

BK090900 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 9 Jul 83

[Text] In Afghanistan, at least 23 Soviet-Karmal soldiers were killed and many others wounded in severe clashes that took place between the mujahidin and the Soviet-Karmal forces north of Kabul toward the end of last month, according to reports. After the clashes, Soviet planes bombarded the area, killing 54 civilians in 7 villages.

Qandahar Attack

BK091020 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 9 Jul 83

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin killed the intelligence chief of the Maiwand subdivision in Qandahar Province along with 15 Soviet-Karmal troops while a tank and jeep were damaged in the battle. According to the reports, the freedom fighters launched the attack on a subdivisional police headquarters of Maiwand on the 20th of last month with rocket launchers and handgrenades, destroying a tank and setting the building on fire.

On the 26th of last month, the Soviet planes bombed the two nearby villages of Shahwali Kot subdivision, which caused a heavy loss to the civilian population of the area.

Clashes Near Kabul

BK110645 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 11 Jul 83

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin have besieged the subdivisional headquarters and a market of

Paghman near Kabul. Defense arrangements at these places are very strong. Other reports say in a clash between the Afghan mujahidin and the Soviet-Karmal forces, eight Soviet-Karmal soldiers were killed and two tanks damaged. Mujahidin attacked the (Charkhiat) military post on the 28th of last month near Kabul and inflicted heavy damage on the Soviet-Karmal forces. The attack lasted for 1 hour and mujahidin (?successfully) returned to their bases.

AFP Reports Crash of Soviet Arms Transport Plane

BK091159 Hong Kong AFP in English 1143 GMT 9 Jul 83

[Text] Islamabad, July 9 (AFP) — A big Soviet transport plane loaded with arms and ammunition crashed near Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan on Tuesday after a mid-air explosion, killing all on board, the rebel AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) said today.

The plane, a four-engine aircraft, was on a supply mission from Kabul to Jalalabad when it caught fire two kms (less than two miles) southeast of the capital city of eastern Ningharhar Province, the agency said.

It was not known how many people were on the plane. But the agency, quoting eyewitness [as received] from Kariz Kabir village, scene of the crash, said at least eight charred bodies were retrieved from the debris.

Six Afghan civilians were also injured when part of the wreckage fell on a house in the village, the agency said.

The type of plane was not identified. But the Soviets have Ilyushin IL-18 and IL-76 four-engine aircraft used for transportation.

Rebel mujahideen sources did not claim responsibility for the plane crash, though Jalalabad airport had been the target of frequent guerrilla raids in the past few months.

'Resistance Sources' Claim Downing of Soviet MiG

BK091719 Hong Kong AFP in English 1709 GMT 9 Jul 83

[Text] Islamabad, July 9 (AFP) — Afghan rebels shot down a Soviet MiG jet and captured its Russian pilot and an advisor after

they bailed out during a Soviet-Afghan raid on a guerrilla stronghold near Kabul last Tuesday, Afghan resistance sources said here today.

They said eight helicopters and four jets raided the enclave at Yakh Dara in the Kabul suburbs, destroying several houses and an orchard.

The rebels used rockets and anti-aircraft guns against the attacking aircraft, they said.

Guerrillas in the area had been active since last year and were harassing the government forces with daylight ambushes in the Afghan capital.

Soviet Armored Unit Reportedly Shells Buses

BK101040 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 10 Jul 83

[Text] In Afghanistan, a mobile armored unit of the Soviet Union martyred by shelling 73 passengers boarding three buses in Balkh Province on 16 June. The passengers were killed in (Asiagobez) village of the Chintal subdivision. More than half of the passengers consisted of women and children. Reports also said that a Soviet force of nine tanks was patrolling the area when a tank was blasted and its four-man crew was killed by a mine explosion a few hundred yards away from the road.

Meanwhile, mujahidin operations are gaining momentum in (?Kalat-i-Ghilzai), capital of Zabol Province, where they attacked a government godown and killed six Karmal soldiers on 22 June.

Council Declares Amnesty for Some Prisoners

LD101927 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Jul 83

[Text] In connection with the 'Id al-Fitr, the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium has released a number of male and female prisoners in the capital and provinces from their remaining terms of imprisonment. According to a report from the Secretariat of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium, the decrees concerning the prisoners' release have been communicated to the relevant authorities.

Ershad Addresses Nation on Plan for Elections*BK081652 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1330 GMT
8 Jul 83*

[Address to nation by Chief Martial Law Administrator Hussain Mohammad Ershad on 8 July]

[Excerpts] Dear countrymen: During my address to the nation on 18 February, I announced that the present government believes in democracy and is respectful of democracy. Therefore, the people's participation in the administration of the country should be ensured. And that is why we would like to stabilize real democracy through elections on the basis of adult franchise. In the greater interest of the country, there is no alternative to real and people's democracy. For the sake of truth, we are bound to say that we had been deprived in the past of the real democracy. Administration, wealth, and power were then centralized. But we have brought that administration to the doorsteps of the people.

I promised you that the process of the transition to democracy would begin as soon as the situation improved. By the grace of God, we are going to take a big leap forward to the transition to democracy. By the grace of God, the merciful, on this night of Shab-i-Qadr in the holy month of Ramadan, I announce the arrangements of elections of all Union Councils of the country from the 27th of December next. This election will have to be completed in the subsequent 3 weeks. After this, elections of all municipalities and municipal corporations will be held on 11 February next. Police station zone council elections in the country will be held on 24 March next. Consistent with the proclaimed policy of the present government, I reiterate that these elections will be held on the basis of adult franchise. The people's mandate will be accepted as the supreme.

It is undoubtedly a matter of pride for the nation that, for the first time, the judiciary has been separated from the executive. We have received both direct and indirect support from almost all quarters of the country for the process of bringing the judiciary and executive to the police station zone level under the reorganization scheme. We have also received support for the setting up of police zone councils by direct (?voting) of the people. For this, I extend my sincere thanks to the countrymen and members of the Armed Forces.

Dear countrymen, under this backdrop, I appeal to all to maintain a peaceful and congenial atmosphere in the country. The maintenance of peace and order in the country and the creation of a congenial atmosphere is an utmost necessity today. We are taking all necessary steps for the restoration of democracy and giving proof of our good intentions. But the responsibility for creating hurdles toward restoration of democracy or for hampering the peaceful atmosphere by any quarter or side will be borne by them. Naturally, it will not lead to any good. Therefore, I call upon the countrymen to be aware of this.

As the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, I assure you that the Armed Forces always stand by the countrymen as a sentinel and will continue this effort. We are [words indistinct] in the history of the nation. We will cross the steps to transition to democracy with the utmost care.

This is not the responsibility of the government alone, but everyone's. Because, through this, we will be able to establish the future stability of the country. I would like to categorically state that political tolerance and respect for others are interlinked with the real democracy. It is not possible to build up a democratic heritage without [words indistinct].

In accordance with the process of transition to democracy, we must make arrangements for our general elections following the election of self-administered bodies. I have already directed the election commission to make arrangements for holding general elections in the country by March 1985. This timetable for the countrywide election has been fixed with the belief that peace, order, and a congenial atmosphere will prevail. I expect everyone's cooperation, irrespective of political ideologies.

Political Leaders Hail Election Announcement*BK101216 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT
10 Jul 83*

[Text] Leaders of various shades of opinion have hailed the announcement of Chief Martial Law Administrator [CMLA] Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad to hold general elections in the country by March 1985. They termed this as a definite step in the transition toward democracy. The leaders pointed out that this declaration of Gen Ershad would augur well for the country.

Hailing the announcement, chief of Jatiya League, Aaur Rahman Khan, said it was a good thing that the CMLA had done. He pointed out that it would have been better if general elections had preceded the local bodies elections. The elections to the local bodies before the general elections in the country could prejudice things and as such it would not be congenial for the country, he observed.

Giving his reaction, the vice president of Muslim League, (?T. Ali), Kazi Abdul Kader, noted that the announcement of Gen Ershad on general elections came in the true spirit of his commitment to the nation. Welcoming the decision, Kazi Abdul Kader expressed the hope that the CMLA would try his best to restore democracy in the country [words indistinct] not stand in his way. He wished success to the endeavor of Gen Ershad for transition toward democracy.

Welcoming the decision, chief of the Huda faction of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, said this was a definite ray of hope for politics in Bangladesh. It was, in fact, the demand of his organization so that the people could know when democracy was coming.

President of the Jatiyatabadi Gonotantrik Dal, Peerzada Shah Din Mohammad, congratulated Gen Ershad for announcing a specific time for general elections and local bodies elections. He also called upon the government to allow open political activities. President of the Jatiyo Samajtantrik Dal, Major, Retired, M.A. Jalil, said the announcement of holding general elections had demonstrated the good intention of the government that it does not intend to cling to power. The Bangladesh Nagarik Sanhati also congratulated the CMLA for his timely announcement.

Delhi: Former Deputy Prime Minister Freed

*BK081419 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 8 Jul 83*

[Text] In Bangladesh, the former deputy prime minister, Moudud Ahmed, who was jailed 4 months ago for 10 years for corruption, has been freed on the orders of the martial law chief, Lieutenant General Ershad. According to a government announcement in Dhaka today, he was released following a review of an earlier judgment by a military court. Mr Ahmed was in the Cabinet during the regime of the former president, Ziaul Rahman.

Minister Leaves for Japan, U.S., Britain

BK081611 Hong Kong AFP in English 1553 GMT 8 Jul 83

[Text] Dhaka, July 3 (AFP) — Bangladeshi Minister for Local Government, Rural Development, and Cooperatives Mahbubur Rahman left here today for Tokyo on the first leg of a two-week official tour of Japan, the United States, and Britain.

Mr. Rahman, who is also minister for religious affairs, will meet his Japanese counterpart and visit some cooperative establishments during his visit to Japan.

In the United States, he is to meet senior officials at the State Department and the World Bank while in Britain he will visit a country council.

Ershad Greets Batmonh on Mongolian National Day

BK110703 Dhaka BSS in English 0630 GMT 11 Jul 83

[Text] Dhaka, July 11 (BSS) — President of the Council of Ministers Lt. Gen. H.M. Ershad has expressed the confidence that the existing friendly relations between Bangladesh and Mongolia will be further strengthened in the years to come to the mutual benefit of the two peoples.

In a felicitating message to Mongolian Premier Mr. Jambyn Batmonh on the occasion of the People's Revolution Day of the republic, Gen. Ershad wished continued progress and prosperity, good health and happiness of the people of Mongolia.

'Arafat Told Nonaligned Support PLO Unity*BK090956 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Jul 83*

[Excerpt] India has assured the PLO chief, Mr 'Arafat, that the Nonaligned Movement is committed to the unity of the Palestine movement. The prime minister, Mrs Gandhi's special envoy, Mr Ramesh Bhandari met Mr 'Arafat in Tunis and told him that the nonaligned nations are extremely concerned at the explosive situation in West Asia. Mr Bhandari said that Mrs Gandhi, as chairperson of the Nonaligned Movement, hopes that problems within the PLO will be sorted out amicably.

Venkataraman Urges 'Full Defense Preparedness'*BK101640 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Jul 83*

[Text] The defense minister has urged army officers to maintain full defense preparedness to meet any eventuality. Mr R. Venkataraman was addressing officers and men of the Southern Command in Pune today. He said government will not give room for any complacency and will keep a constant vigil. He said it will be the constant endeavor of the government to improve our fighting capabilities.

Referring to the deterioration in the international political situation, the defense minister said that India, as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, is striving hard to achieve global peace. Mr Venkataraman earlier opened a 4.3-million rupee new building of the Pune cantonment board.

Sikh Leader Says Government Pushing Toward Civil War*BK100901 Hong Kong AFP in English 0744 GMT 10 Jul 83**[By Dilip Ganguly]*

[Text] New Delhi, July 10 (AFP) — Sikh leader, Harchand Singh Longowal, today accused Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's federal government of leading the country to a "civil war" amidst reports that chances of a negotiated settlement on Punjab were receding.

"The attack on Gurudwaras (Sikh temples) is part of a conspiracy of the union (federal) government to divide and rule; the government is pushing our beloved country to a civil war," Mr. Longowal said in a 500-word press statement.

The statement came at a time when chances of a negotiated settlement on the Sikh demand for greater political autonomy for Punjab were receding, several observers here said.

Punjab remained incident free during the past 24 hours, but Indian news reports said that the government there, run by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress (I) Party was making efforts to prevent further outbreaks of violence.

Tribune newspaper, which is usually well informed on Punjab, said that the state administration had ordered a search of all trains to Punjab for arms, parcel bombs and Sikh extremists.

Mr. Longowal, who heads the Sikh political party, the Akali Dal (Party of Eternity) said that Sikhs in the state and elsewhere in the country were being made "scapegoats by the union government to fulfill its design of divide and rule."

Mr. Longowal appealed to Hindus in the state not to be "misled by the false propaganda of our rulers that we are against you."

"The Hindus and Sikhs are brothers....and a brother should not fight a brother," the statement said.

Mr. Longowal's appeal came as events in Punjab during the past month had turned into clashes between Sikhs and Hindus, the observers said.

"I have been saying day in and day out that the government has its hand in the violence in the state...the police have remained mere spectators during the violence," he charged.

Meanwhile, federal officials here said they did not see any chance for a resumption of negotiations with the Sikhs. The latest federal offer for talks last week was turned down by the Sikh leader.

"It is a stalemate in Punjab, as far talks are concerned," one official said. The federal priority now was to see that peace returns to Punjab and then "we could think about resuming the talks," he added.

AFP Reports on Chandigarh Explosion, Sikh Agitation*BK110828 Hong Kong AFP in English 0808 GMT 11 Jul 83**[By Dilip Ganguly]*

[Text] New Delhi, July 11 (AFP) — Powerful bomb explosions left at least two dead and over a dozen injured in Chandigarh, the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana State early today, officials contacted by telephone said. The explosions occurred in a residential district of the city where clashes between two groups of Sikh traditional guards had left two dead and some six injured yesterday.

The victims in today's explosions were identified as Ram Dev, 37, and his 7-year-old daughter, officials said. Preliminary reports said that the bombs exploded in the house of Mr. Dev, who was identified as a blacksmith. His wife, and another daughter suffered serious injuries and hospital sources said their condition was serious.

Senior police officials said an enquiry was on, but refused to say if there was any link between yesterday's Sikh clash and today's explosions. But one official, who asked not to be named, said he did not rule out a link as the incidents took place in the same sector of the city.

Yesterday Sikh leaders called for virtual revolt against the federal government accusing it of genocide in Punjab and saying that time had come for a "direct action."

At a conclave in Punjab attended by some 20,000 delegates, Sikh leaders gave as an example Bangladesh's break from Pakistani rule saying "we should prepare the Sikhs to break the shackle of slavery." Indian news reports said. The statements, reported widely today by local newspapers here, came at a time when intelligence reports from Punjab said extremist elements within the Sikh political party, the Akali Dal, were fast gaining grounds.

The effective leadership of the Sikh movement was slipping into the hands of the hard core, a section of whom wanted to secede from the Indian union and form an independent Sikh homeland — Khalistan, the reports said.

The meeting held in the historic town of Tarn Taran, near Amritsar, was called to observe a "protest day" at some police actions against the Sikhs. Federal sources here refused to comment on the meeting, but one source said the Interior Ministry was busy studying the statements and might initiate action.

The statement fell just short of calling for an open revolt and one law expert said that charges of sedition could be brought against the speakers.

The leaders present at the meeting were, chief of the all important Sikh temple committee Gurcharan Singh Tohra, Jagdev Singh Talwandi and former Minister Sukhjinder Singh.

"We have exhausted the democratic and peaceful measures for achieving our demands, and we would now resort to direct action," Mr. Tohra said.

Mr. Talwandi, an important member of the party said the main aim of their protest was to "present an independent Sikh identity" and called for direct action.

Earlier this year, party's top leader Harchand Singh Longowal said he was raising a several-thousand-strong Sikh volunteer force and the first group of more than 20,000 Sikhs were sworn in, pledging they would die for the Sikh cause.

Meanwhile, Sikh sources said the Akali Dal would launch a call for state wide rallies in Punjab on July 13.

6 Killed in Union Clashes in Uttar Pradesh

*BK100916 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
10 Jul 83*

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, six persons were killed yesterday in clashes between two rival groups of the labor union at Modinagar in Meerut District. Interunion rivalry is said to be the cause of the clashes. An official spokesman told our Lucknow correspondent this morning that the situation in the city is fully under control and the senior civil and police officials have reached the spot; 60 persons have been arrested in connection with the incident.

Reports of Missing Bihar Firearms 'Exaggerated'

*BK110716 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
11 Jul 83*

[Text] In Bihar, 30 firearms have been found missing from the government's custody in Gaya. The chief minister, Mr Jagannath, told our Patna correspondent this morning that of these about 20 guns have been recovered. He described press reports about the missing arms and ammunition as exaggerated.

Soviet Nuclear Explosions Recorded 10 July

*BK101246 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT
10 Jul 83*

[Text] The Soviet Union today carried out three nuclear explosions near the Caspian Sea. The explosions, were recorded by the Bhava Atomic Research Center in Bombay. The detonations took place at 5-minute intervals around 0930 Indian standard time this morning [0400 GMT]. According to the seismology department of [name indistinct] University in (?Stockholm), the first explosion had a magnitude of 6 on the Richter scale, the second, 5.9, and the third, 5.8.

Zia Reaffirms Promise on New Political System
GF101302 Karachi DAWN in English 7 Jul 83 p 1

[Excerpt] Islamabad, July 6: President Gen. Mohammad Ziaul Haq said today that Islamic political system for the country would be announced by Aug. 14, as promised. This was his "commitment", he added, apparently meaning that it would be honoured.

Talking to local newsmen at an iftar party [breaking of daily fast during Ramadan], hosted by Brig T.H. Siddiqui, director, inter-services public relations, the president said he was awaiting reports of various agencies working on the system.

Asked if he intended to appoint another committee to evolve a single report out of the reports prepared by three different agencies, the president said he could not answer the question until he had seen all the reports. According to newspaper reports, he added, the Shoora Committee [advisory council] would submit its report to the Shoora chairman who would take another three or four days to send it to him. However, he smilingly said, appointment of new committees was interpreted as meaning that the matter was being put in cold storage.

The president told a newsman that the students of Rawalpindi's politechnic college had been shifted to three other colleges. The college had been closed down because its "history was not good." It was located on the grand trunk road and its students "made a show" of their presence there.

The president replied in the affirmative when asked if he felt fit enough to undertake his official visit to Japan, beginning on July 17. However, he added, he was sorry that he was missing his trip to holy places in Saudi Arabia on Ramadan 27 [the 27th day of Ramadan when Muslims pray until daybreak].

President Appoints Government Review Commission
BK101540 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Jul 83

[Excerpt] The president has appointed a 14-member commission to review various reports on a proposed system of government. The commission will review reports and related issues and present its recommendations to the president by 31 July. The commission is headed by Maulana Zafar Ahmad Ansari, a veteran Pakistan movement leader, prominent theologian, and noted scholar.

Political Leader Criticizes U.S. Military Aid
GF101328 Karachi DAWN in English 6 Jul 83 p 6

[Text] Lahore, July 5 (PPI): Amir of the defunct Jama'at-i-Islami, Mian Tufail Mohammed, has said Pakistan cannot depend on the United States alone for meeting its defence requirements.

However, he added, in view of the dangers lurking on our borders it is necessary to adopt a policy of fulfilling our defence requirements from wherever they can be.

Besides the U.S., China, England and France we should welcome if Soviet Union is prepared to give us anything in this connection, he said.

Explaining defunct Jama'at's stand on Pakistan-American relations, Mian Tufail said the U.S. claim that it supported Pakistan was not a new one. As far as the statements are concerned the U.S. was also with us when India attacked East Pakistan on instance of Soviet Union, and it was assuring us of its support even today. But our past experience of its promises and statements in Hyderabad (Deccan) [in India], Kashmir and East Pakistan is very bitter, he said.

Mian Tufail said the aid offered by the U.S. to Pakistan was to come in instalments over a period of several years and nobody could be sure whether it would materialise or not. Even if it did materialise, the India would have such a huge quantity of MIG, Jaguar and various types of India-made planes and bombers, tanks, guns and other naval and army weapons that Pakistan, with all the equipment supplied of her by America, would still be far behind India.

Expressing dissatisfaction with the U.S. attitude, Mian Tufail said whatsoever the U.S. had done was nothing more than lip service. Had America given any practical aid to Afghan mujahidin Soviets would have vacated the country by now, he added.

He urged the U.S. Government to provide the Afghan mujahidin with such aid which will enable them to fight against helicopters, MIG planes and chemical warfare.

Canada's MacEachen Concludes 3-Day Visit

Conditions for Nuclear Cooperation
BK081451 Hong Kong AFP in English 1433 GMT 8 Jul 83

[Text] Islamabad, July 8 (AFP) — Canada could not resume nuclear cooperation with Pakistan until the Islamabad authorities had signed the nonproliferation treaty or agreed to full international site inspection, Canadian External Affairs Minister Allan MacEachen said here today.

Concluding a three-day official visit he said: "My discussions in Pakistan did not lead to a new nuclear cooperation policy from Canada. We did not spell out conditions on either side that would have made it possible to resume cooperation."

Canada suspended nuclear cooperation with countries who had not signed the non-proliferation treaty or did not accept full international guarantees in 1976.

An immediate consequence was the interruption of Canadian uranium supplies for the small Kanupp nuclear power station in Karachi, built with Canadian assistance.

Pakistan says that its nuclear research programme is directed solely to peaceful uses.

The Canadian external affairs minister said that Canada had no wish to see "the wounds of the past" reopened. His discussions with President Mohammed Ziaul Haq and government members gave "new impetus" to relations between the two countries. Four deals totalling 16,700,000 Can. dollars were concluded.

Canada meanwhile provides aid for the three million Afghan refugees in Pakistan, the 1983 figure being 56 million Can. dollars. Mr. MacEachen backed continuation of indirect Pakistan-Afghan talks in Geneva on the future of Afghanistan, even though a breakthrough did not appear imminent.

He also called for an early return of Pakistan to the Commonwealth, remarking: "There is a sort of incompleteness in the Commonwealth without Pakistan."

This country left the Commonwealth in 1971 after the secession of former East Pakistan, which became Bangladesh.

Mr. MacEachen was to leaving Islamabad tonight for Ottawa, thus ending a tour that also brought in Thailand, Sri Lanka and India.

8 July Press Conference

BK090824 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT
8 Jul 83

[Excerpts] Pakistan and Canada have identified a number of ways in which the two countries could broaden their cooperation in economic, commercial, and other fields. This was stated by the Canadian deputy prime minister and secretary of state for foreign affairs, Mr Allan MacEachen, at a news conference in Islamabad today.

In reply to a question, Mr MacEachen said the rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union should not impede the Geneva talks on Afghanistan.

When asked to comment on the present state of India-Pakistan relations, Mr MacEachen said Canada is pleased with the steps taken by the two countries to normalize their relations.

In reply to a question, he said the question of atomic cooperation between Pakistan and Canada came up for discussion during his visit. However, they could not arrive at any conclusion for such cooperation.

NEPAL

Prime Minister Loses No Confidence Vote

8 Ministers Resign

BK081520 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 8 Jul 83

[Text] His majesty the king in accordance with the Constitution of Nepal has accepted the resignation of eight members of the Council of Ministers, including minister, ministers of state, and assistant ministers, submitted to his majesty through Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa on grounds of differences with the prime minister on policy matters, Pancha unity, and morality.

This is stated in a notice published today by the principal press secretariat of his majesty the king.

The minister for law and justice and land reform, Bakhan Singh Gurung, and the minister of state for general administration, Dhyani Bahadur Rai, submitted the resignations to his majesty today; while the minister of state for tourism, Dipak Bohara, yesterday. (Meanwhile), the assistant minister for supplies, Surbir Shahi, and the assistant minister for works and transport, Lal Singh Gurung, submitted their resignations today; while the assistant industry minister, Upendra Daibagya, Assistant Health Minister Keshav Bahadur Shah, and Assistant Minister for Local Development Chandradev Choudhary yesterday.

No Confidence Motion

BK091430 Hong Kong AFP in English 1421 GMT 9 Jul 83

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Katmandu, July 9 (AFP) — Opponents of Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa in the National Panchayat, the unicameral legislature, said they have already collected the signatures of 108 members today against the required 84 votes to oust Mr. Thapa from the government. This number is expected to exceed the majority of 122 votes through which he was elected "unopposed" by the National Panchayat in June 1981 for a five-year term.

At the same time, two influential ministers in Mr. Thapa's government are likely to quit office tomorrow after the tabling of the national exchequer's annual budget for fiscal 1983/84, a reliable source today told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. The two ministers are Finance Minister Yadav Prasad Pant and Foreign Minister Padma Bahadur Khatri — both royal nominees. Dr. Pant is preparing to table the national budget for the next fiscal year to the National Panchayat tomorrow and he is expected to resign a few hours later along with Mr. Khatri.

Mr. Thapa's survival strategy in the government has been the backing of the 24 royal nominees in the National Panchayat, who have now joined the anti-Thapa group to outvote him.

If Prime Minister Thapa had agreed to resign voluntarily before the tabling of the vote of the no confidence motion, he would not

have faced this situation, one of his sympathizers said. Mr. Thapa however has agreed to face the challenge of his opponents and to relinquish the prime ministerial post through the "constitutional and democratic process" — the first experiment under the 23 years of political history of the partyless Panchayat polity.

Political observers here are getting sceptical about how the new government would implement the budget prepared by the alleged "corrupt and inefficient" government headed by Mr. Thapa.

From the opposition camp, Lokendra Bahadur Chand, former chairman of the National Panchayat and Marich Man Singh, chairman of the National Panchayat, are the prime candidates to succeed Mr. Thapa. Whoever does will be faced with the duty of curbing sky rocketing market prices, lowering the cost of fertilizer, food grains and the electricity. If all these problems are not promptly resolved, the public is likely to turn against the new government.

The vote of no confidence motion is scheduled to be tabled on Monday for the voting which will be held "under camera".

Mr. Thapa is well aware of the ultimate result, sources close to the prime minister said.

Further Resignations

BK091516 Hong Kong AFP in English 1508 GMT 9 Jul 83

[Excerpt] Katmandu, July 9 (AFP) — Three more ministers of Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa's Council of Ministers have resigned, bringing to 11 the number of ministers to quit the government, an official source said today. The ministers included Tejendra Bahadur Khadga, minister of state for forest and soil conservation and two assistant ministers, Rega Bahadur Subedi and Sheik Sarajul, of land reform and tourism respectively.

This has caused further isolation of Prime Minister Thapa who is facing the vote of no confidence motion Monday in camera.

Official sources said the resignations were aimed at forcing Mr. Thapa to resign, as he has been criticized for alleged failure to check administrative corruption and improve the country's economy.

Foreign, Finance Ministers Resign

BK101530 Hong Kong AFP in English 1518 GMT 10 Jul 83

[Text] Katmandu, July 10 (AFP) — Four more senior ministers, including Foreign Minister Padma Bahadur Khatri, offered their resignations to the king today, official sources said, raising the number of resignations to 15 out of a 35-strong Council of Ministers.

The resignations, to show the ministers' "disagreement" with Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa and for the cause of "Panchayat (parliamentary) unity," seemed likely to deal a death blow to Mr Thapa's trouble-torn government, observers said.

The four included Mr Thapa's most trusted minister Nava Raj Subedi, responsible for Panchayat and local development, and Keshar Bahadur Bista minister of state for education and culture, the source added.

The fourth was Finance Minister Dr Yadav Prashad Pant, who tendered his resignation barely an hour after his bold announcement of the national budget for the fiscal year 1983/84 beginning on July 16.

More senior ministers are likely to follow suit before the proposal of the vote of "no confidence" against the prime minister tomorrow morning for his alleged failure to control rampant administrative corruption and failure on the economic front.

The vote of no confidence motion originally signed by 41 anti-Thapa members of the National Panchayat (parliament or council) on June 24 has now been backed by 112 of the unicameral legislature's 140 members, against a required support of 84. The motion is being proposed in camera and the final results of the voting will be announced around mid-day, the official source added.

As opposition to Mr Thapa, the country's first elected prime minister under the 23-year-old partyless Panchayat system, gathered a pace, he was expected to face the motion alone and perhaps without a single vote in his favour, sources close to him told AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE.

Mr Thapa, 57, received the backing of 122 votes when he was elected to the country's highest executive post in June 1981 for a five-year term.

King Birendra appointed a prime minister of Nepal in June 1979 following popular and student unrest nationwide.

While in office, Mr Thapa held a national referendum in May 1980 and a general election a year later in which he was elected to the National Panchayat from his home town Dhankuta, 260 km (162 miles) east of Katmandu. During his four years as prime minister, Mr Thapa successfully weakened different outlawed political parties, but critics charged that he failed to control administrative corruption or to improve Nepal's general economic situation.

No Confidence Motion Passed

BK111254 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Jul 83

[Text] In Nepal, the 2-year-old ministry headed by Mr Surya Bahadur Thapa has been voted out of office by the Rashtriya Panchayat. The house passed a no confidence motion against the ministry by 108 votes to 17 today; 11 members abstained from voting. This is the first time in the country that a no confidence motion was passed against a government. The vote against the government came within 24 hours of the resignation of 14 ministers. Eight others have resigned in the past 3 days.

Mr Thapa was the first prime minister under the partyless Panchayat Constitution. The Rashtriya Panchayat is empowered

to elect the prime minister provided a candidate is able to win the support of 60 percent of its members. The house is scheduled to elect today a new leader to succeed Mr Thapa.

Parliament To Replace Thapa

BK111208 Hong Hong AFP in English 1158 GMT 11 Jul 83

[Excerpts] Katmandu, July 11 (AFP) — The Nepalese legislature was expected to elect a new leader tomorrow after Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa today overwhelmingly lost a vote of no-confidence in the national Panchayat.

Lokendra Bahadur Chand is expected to be the chosen as leader of the national Panchayat, the unicameral legislature and will probably be appointed prime minister by King Birendra later in the day.

Under the Constitution the prime minister has to resign if he is outvoted in the national Panchayat.

The legislature today overwhelmingly passed a motion of no confidence in Mr. Thapa, who was attacked for his failure to curb corruption and improve Nepal's economy.

In the legislature Mr. Chand, leader of the anti-Thapa group, charged that "Mr. Thapa had failed to discharge his duty entrusted to him by the house."

Mr. Chand said Nepalese people had faced hardship because of failures to solve the food problem and control prices.

The vote capped a political crisis here that snowballed over the past our days amid charges of rampant corruption in the administration and failure by Mr. Thapa to spur economic development.

Mr. Thapa had manoeuvred well on the political front handling the outlawed political parties in a manner which saw them split up into factions. But his opponents in the Panchayat levelled major complaints against him, claiming that he had failed to check corruption and malpractices in the distribution of grain grants from abroad. There were also protests against sky rocketing prices and allegations that the prime minister had built up his own personal wealth.

The current crisis was seen by observers here as potentially damaging for the Panchayat political system which was introduced by King Mahendra, late father of the present monarch, in December 1960.

Mr. Chand, who is tipped to take on the premiership, is chairman of the high-powered Panchayat Policy and Evaluation Committee.

Marich Man Singh, chairman of the national Panchayat, was also seen earlier as a contender for the premiership. a former school teacher from far north east Nepal, he is said to have had his eye on the post for the past year.

Mr. Chand is a former chairman of the national Panchayat, a landowner and a royalist from the far north west. He is considerably senior to his rival from the political view. He is a veteran supporter of the Panchayat system while Mr. Singh moved behind it only in the early 1970's.

Following Mr. Thapa's defeat in the no confidence vote, outlawed opposition party leaders called for the dissolution of the national Panchayat and the holding of new national elections.

Commenting on the defeat, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, acting president of the outlawed Nepali Congress, the major political opposition to the Panchayat system, said "the ignominious exit of Prime Minister Thapa from the government marks an important watershed in simple and dull Panchayat politics."

The opposition leader also appealed to King Birendra to legalise the political parties outlawed 23 years ago when the present Panchayat system was instituted.

Meanwhile, Dilli Raman Regmia, former foreign minister, said that the national Panchayat had been ineffective and suggested that the king should dissolve the house and constitute an interim government composed of experienced and unblemished politicians.

SRI LANKA

AFP: Tamils Attack Railway Station in North
BK090934 Hong Kong AFP in English 0912 GMT 9 Jul 83

[Text] Colombo, July 9 (AFP) — Armed Tamil separatists have struck again in the northern part of the country, attacking a railway station and stealing the day's collections. The robbery yesterday was the latest in a series of Tamil attacks against state establishments which began a week ago with a well-coordinated assault on another northern rail station and the burning of several train cars. In last week's raid, armed separatists beat the station's employees and then dismantled its communication system before

setting fire to the cars which caused an estimated 60 million rupees (about 2.5 million dollars) in damages. After yesterday's railway attack, the armed gang also set fire to a state-owned bus which was badly damaged.

Tamil groups have attacked several state institutions in the north during the past week. The most serious incident concerned the theft of explosives from a state cement factory at Kankasanturai, about 254 miles from here. A group of Tamil separatists disguised as an army patrol entered the factory and made off with three electronic detonators and a dynamite driller, raising fears in security circles that the separatists were planning a major attack.

The past week's attacks follow the arrest by national security forces of the president and secretary of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Front (TELF). The two leaders, S.A. Dharmalingam and Kovimahesan, were arrested for organising a demonstration in violation of the country's prevailing emergency laws.

It is believed that the separatists' aim in striking at state establishments has been to paralyse the north's civil administration in hopes of securing the release of their leaders. District administrators in some northern areas, fearing future attacks, have stepped up security around their offices, which house land registers, land settlement documents and birth records dating as far back as 1875.

The national railway, which was hoping to resume services on its lucrative northern line yesterday following last week's attack, was forced to cancel all trains due to the security risks.

Referring to ethnic violence that has rocked the northeastern city of Trincomalee which has left 18 people dead, Prime Minister Ramasinghe Premadasa told parliament that the government will not resort to violence in meeting the challenge of Tamil separatist terrorism. "People are making use of this opportunity to rouse communal passions, you will appreciate that the government must be cautious in taking action", he said.

Foreign Minister Criticizes French Government
LD081252 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
 8 Jul 83

[Excerpts] The speaker before this week's Friday prayers sermons in Tehran was our country's foreign minister, Mr Velayati.

He began his speech by reviewing the history of Palestine and the crusade wars, expounding on the crusaders attack against the holy land of Palestine in the 6th and 7th centuries, and also on the conquering of this sacred land by Salah ad-Din Ayyubi, the great commander of Islam.

Continuing his remarks, he referred to the cooperation and assistance given by the Zionist and so-called socialist regime of France to the Iraqi regime. Mr Velayati said: The recent moves of this regime against our Muslim nation and its assistance to Saddam's regime serve no purpose but to help the reactionaries of the region. These moves are helping the overall aim of Zionism and global imperialism. Therefore, the final defeat of Saddam's government would be a defeat of the reactionaries of the region and of Western colonialism and it would be a trailblazer for the cohesive movement of the world Muslims in order to remove the cancerous tumor of the region, the usurping Israel.

Addressing the ruling regime in France, he said: Mitterrand, this upstart gendarme of world arrogance, should know that those who had greater influence and power in our country and in the neighboring countries finally conceded defeat and bowed their heads in surrender; while Mitterrand thinks that by giving several planes to the Zionist regime of Iraq he can frighten our people. But despite the conspiracies of global arrogance and of the Eastern and Western superpowers and their acolyte, that is, Socialist-Zionist France, we are determined to defend our Islamic lands and rub Saddam's snout in the dirt. And we are certain that simultaneously, the snouts of France and of the United States will be rubbed in the dirt. Therefore, we will take the necessary actions in our combat against this most incompetent government of the French nation since World War II and show this regime that we are not going to surrender in the face of its pathetic blackmail and that the stupid support given by that government to the fugitive terrorists who have attracted the hatred of the people of the world will bring them no benefit.

Velayati Message Urges Response to 'Aziz Egyptian Visit
LD091246 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
 9 Jul 83

[Text] In connection with the visit to Cairo by Tariq 'Aziz, the Iraqi Zionist minister of foreign affairs, which is taking place in contravention of decisions by the Baghdad conference as well as the collective decisions of the Arab world, Foreign Minister Velayati has sent a written message to the foreign ministers of the Steadfastness Front.

Confirming Libya's call for the members of the Steadfastness Front to counter the alliance of the Zionist Egyptian and Iraqi regimes, the message says: Feeling complete weakness and desperation with regard to its invasion of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Iraqi Ba'thist regime has abandoned all pretensions,

empty slogans, and claims concerning its fight against the Zionist enemy and is now joining hands with the Egyptian regime, this leader of reactionary and dependent regimes, in order to save its tottering government.

Furthermore, referring to the timing of the trip — to coincide with the visit to the region by the U.S. secretary of state, the message says: The governments and revolutionary Muslim forces must respond to the plot for the return of Egypt to the Arab fold and the expansion of the Camp David concept. Also, the message supports Syrian positions against pressures applied by America and its agents in the region and then refers to International Jerusalem Day and its role in keeping the flames of jihad by the Islamic nation alive to liberate Jerusalem, saying: We have always supported the struggles by the peoples of Palestine and Lebanon and demand the unity of the ranks of the faithful and committed Palestinian strugglers. We will continue to support the Steadfastness Front in its decisive struggle against the Zionist regime, stressing the need for more dynamism and activity by this front under the present grave conditions. We are prepared to provide any necessary cooperation toward the strengthening and consolidation of the front.

Foreign Ministry Announces Closing of French Consulate
LD091735 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
 9 Jul 83

[Text of announcement issued by Public Relations Office of Iranian Foreign Ministry — date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The Islamic Revolution of Iran, in its speedy and divine movement, pulls away the veils of deceit and discord from the ugly faces of the enemies of Islam every day and reveals their real nature to the people of the world. The Socialist and Zionist Government of France which has proved its animosity toward the Muslim nation of Iran many times before has this time reached the peak of its hostile and deceitful policy by providing facilities and meeting the needs of the hijackers of the Islamic Republic of Iran's passenger plane.

The regime of France has not stopped its increasing hostility toward the martyr nurturing people of Iran and has played its role in all the criminal and inhuman joint acts of internal and external counterrevolutionaries. The present French Government, ever since the beginning of the war imposed by Iraq on Iran, has always provided the Ba'thist regime of Iraq with its extended and unreserved aid to such an extent that at present the livelihoods of these two regimes have completely mingled together. This government, ignoring its responsibilities toward its own people, has dealt the greatest blows on the French economy by providing total support to the decaying regime of Saddam. On the other hand, Paris is currently the capital of the counterrevolution front and internal terrorists, those terrorists who are responsible for the explosion at the central offices of the Islamic Republican Party and also the martyrdom of the president, the prime minister, Friday imams, esteemed religious figures, and a large number of innocent people.

During the past 2 days, following its trend of supporting terrorists and ignoring international law with precise and precalculated cooperation and coordination, the regime which claims that it is opposed to aircraft hijacking, watched a number of terrorists hold several men, women, children, old and young people in a state of anxiety and distress.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in reply to the hostile actions of the Socialist and Zionist Government of France, especially its cooperation with the terrorist hypocrites and hijackers, is closing down the French regime's consulate in Esfahan and the French cultural institute as of today.

[Signed] Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Ground Forces Commander Views Recent Fighting *GF101716 Tehran IRNA in English 1605 GMT 10 Jul 83*

[Text] Khorramabad, July, 10, IRNA — Commander of the Ground Forces, Colonel Sayyad-Shirazi said in Borujerd (Lorestan Province) today that the enemy has recently attempted about 11 offensives in Sharhani region, inside Iraqi territory, in Moharram theatre all of which were repelled and great amount of war spoils were gained. However, he further said, all of these were feigned attacks.

The only mistake of us, added he, was that, we did not take films of the enemy casualties. He then regretted the lack of sufficient preparedness to present to the world the endeavours and self-sacrifices of the Islamic combatants yet. He continued that the Islamic combatants were strongly defending their positions waiting to suppress the slightest movement of the enemy.

In another part Col. Sayyad-Shirazi said that the recent victories in Kordestan and the mopping up of the region was due to the vast operations of the Islamic combatants against counterrevolutionaries.

The commander of the outlawed factions of Komeleh and Democrats (KDP) [Kurdish Democratic Party] as well as all their accomplices especially the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) were dispersed in the region and were fleeing from one corner to another, said Col. Sayyad-Shirazi. He hoped that a general mopping up operation would be soon carried out in that region aimed at annihilating remnants of the bandits there. Stressing that a limited time could not be determined for the mopping up, he said that the Kordestan people were really deprived and oppressed and would completely benefit from the blessings of the Islamic Revolution after the mopping up.

Bushehr Radio Reports Reza'i Comments on War *GF091722 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 9 Jul 83*

[Excerpts] According to our correspondent, Brother Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, who is currently visiting Bushehr, elaborated on the strategy of

the Zionists and imperialists regarding the objectives of international Jerusalem Day in a speech to Friday prayer worshippers.

Brother Mohsen Reza'i alluded to the fact that before reaching Jerusalem, we should muster all our resources and mobilize them to topple the Ba'thist-Zionist regime ruling over Iraq. He stressed the need for sagacity and strategy in the affairs of war, and said: Our combatants may be able to eliminate the ruling Iraqi regime in a short time, but we are not taking any impulsive or hasty steps so that the future generations of Iraq and Iran may coexist in a friendly manner. We are in no hurry and are trying to do what we are doing on the path of God so that our nation may benefit from a durable peace in the world.

Brother Mohsen Reza'i further emphasized the fact that Jerusalem Day is only an aggressive act and a cry against Israel and asked for the continuation of the war against the infidel Ba'thists saying: The issue of the war continues with all its strength and we are awaiting the greater support of the people and the recent utterances of Saddam based on the fact that if Iraq falls the whole area will be destroyed. There is no room now for doubt among our troops proceeding to the combat fronts.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

Communique No 1,370

LD081718 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Jul 83

[Communique No 1,370 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Exchanges of heavy weapons fire have continued in the past 24 hours along all the fronts of the border regions of Ilam and Bakhtaran, with forces of Islam enjoying superiority. Our artillery units stationed along the frontlines opened fire on the Saddamists' positions, trenches, and fortifications, destroying one enemy ammunition dump and a number of bunkers and killing or injuring a number of Iraqi personnel.

Exchanges of fire also continued in the Marivan region where our combatant units fired at enemy concentrations and equipment across the border and obstructed Iraqi movements. The forces of Islam defended their positions on the southern fronts yesterday. In the (Shalamceh) region, a number of Saddamist forces tried to penetrate our forces' positions, but fled after being fired on. In the region north of Faqih, our forces opened heavy weapons fire on Iraqi forces, inflicting losses and casualties on the enemy.

Yesterday, the criminal Saddamists brought civilian sectors of Abadan under their heavy and long-range weapons fire, destroying three houses and damaging two more.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,371

**LD091829 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
9 Jul 83**

[Communique No 1,371 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Sporadic clashes and exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued on most of the country's western fronts between our powerful forces and the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenary aggressors. On each front the Islamic combatants controlled the Iraqi forces' moves and activities and fired on enemy positions, fortifications, and units with their weaponry fire, halting enemy fire and inflicting losses and casualties on the Saddamist mercenaries.

On the Marivan front, an enemy unit started to mass troops with the intention of launching an offensive. The vigilance of the Islamic valiants and their fire on the Iraqi unit grounded the enemy force in its original position, preventing any movement. As a result of fire on the Saddamists' positions in the (Banasuteh), (Hani Garmaleh), and Tutman regions, one enemy operational base was set on fire and destroyed and approximately 50 Saddamists were killed or wounded. In the border region of Baneh also, the triumphant Islamic combatants fired on enemy positions and fortifications, destroying a number of enemy vehicles and setting fire to one Iraqi ground-to-air missile. During this operation, several Iraqi weapon emplacements and bunkers were destroyed with their occupants.

On the southern front, exchanges of fire continued yesterday, and the victorious Islamic combatants continued to defend their positions, inflicting losses on the Saddamist forces by firing on them and by deploying patrol groups. In the (Koshk) and (Sharhani) regions, elements of the Iraqi forces were found and driven off after they were fired upon. During exchanges of fire on the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, valiants of the Gen-darmerie opened fire on the Saddamists' positions and concentrations across the Arvand Rud, destroying a number of enemy bunkers and observation posts together with their occupants. Yesterday, as on other days, the city of Abadan was fired upon by the Iraqi Ba'thist forces' heavy weapons, as a result of which one house and some of the city hospitals were destroyed. The criminal Saddamists also fired on the city of Sar Dasht with their long-range artillery, wounding one of our dear compatriots and destroying two houses.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,372

**LD101738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT
10 Jul 83**

[Communique No 1,372 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His Exalted Name. An Iraqi helicopter was shot down by a fighter plane of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of

Iran in an area to the west of the Al-Umayyah and Al-Bakr jetties at 1107 today.

During the military operations on the southern fronts during the past 24 hours, enemy activities were neutralized thanks to our forces' heavy artillery fire. The forces of Islam defended their positions and halted enemy engineering activities along all the fronts. Exchange of fire was the most intense in Sharhani, Zayd, and in the south of Kushk. An enemy patrol group approached our forces' positions near (Pichangi), but was forced to flee thanks to our forces' fire.

Yesterday, our forces brought enemy concentration areas west of the Arvand Rud under fire, disrupting enemy vehicles' traffic on the Faw-Al-Basrah road, destroying 4 slit trenches and a weapon's emplacement of the Saddamist mercenaries and killing or injuring 10.

On the Ilam and Bakhtaran border fronts, exchange of heavy weapons' fire continued during the past 24 hours; our forces brought enemy concentration areas and positions under fire, destroying three vehicles and two cannons, setting a number of enemy vehicles on fire, and killing a number of Iraqi personnel.

In the (Naftshahr) and Sumar operational theater, exchange of fire was intense; our forces' fire silenced enemy fire.

Yesterday, long-range enemy heavy weapons' fire on the residential areas of Abadan and Sar Dasht wrecked two houses in Abadan and injured two of our civilian compatriots in Sar Dasht.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Syrian Foreign Trade Official Arrives 10 July

GF101744 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 10 Jul 83

[Text] Tehran, July 10, IRNA — Deputy economy and foreign trade minister of Syria, Taha Bali, arrived here this afternoon for a one week visit and talks with his Iranian counterparts.

The Syrian official was welcomed at the airport by Deputy Commerce Minister Hojatollah Ghanimi-Fard.

Ghanimi-Fard told IRNA that Mr. Bali's visit would last about a week and talks would be held on further developing economic relations between the two countries.

He added that trade between the two countries had recently increased considerably with Syria buying oil and some of needed commodities from the Islamic Republic and providing Iran with goods such as barley, lentils, some tools, electrical equipment, textiles and chemical fertiliser.